

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Arnd KRUSCHE et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith  
Title of Invention: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING NETWORK DEVICES  
VIA A MMI

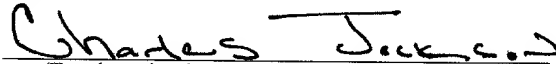
745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10151

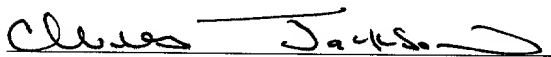
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3-6 and 8-11 as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** a device (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127) and/or service (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45, 46a-46o; 47-74, 75a-75h) is operatable by drag and drop operations or by cut/copy and paste operations.

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4. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** a device (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127) and/or service (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45, 46a-46o; 47-74, 75a-75h) is operatable via context sensitive menus (46; 75, 76) shown in said hierarchical view after selecting the icon associated with said device and/or service.
5. (Amended) Method according to claim 3, **characterized in that** after operation at least one control signal and/or at least one data stream is sent from one device (101; 106; 108) to at least one other device (115; 102; 105).
6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said hierarchical view of icons is organized according to predetermined user-selectable rules.
8. Method according to claim 6, **characterized in that** said hierarchical view of icons is organized depending on the kind of services (47-74, 75a-75h) being available in correspondence with said devices (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127).
9. Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the AV/C protocol is used for controlling the devices (23-35; 76d-76j; 102-110, 114, 116-119, 121-126) and/or services (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45).
10. MMI for controlling network devices, **characterized in that** it is adapted to perform the method as defined in claim 1.
11. Computer program product comprising computer program means adapted to execute all steps defined in claim 1, when said computer program product is executed on a computer (101).

Please add new claim 12 as follows:

- 12. (New) Method according to claim 4, **characterized in that** after operation at least one control signal and/or at least one data stream is sent from one device (101; 106; 108) to at least one other device (115; 102; 105).--

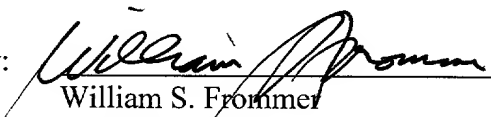
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Claims 3-6 and 8-11 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and claim 12 has been added. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to claims 3-6 and 8-11 by the current amendment. The attached pages is captioned **Version with markings to show changes made.** The filing fee has been calculated based upon these amendments to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the claims:**

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **characterized in that** a device (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127) and/or service (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45, 46a-46o; 47-74, 75a-75h) is operatable by drag and drop operations or by cut/copy and paste operations.
4. (Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **characterized in that** a device (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127) and/or service (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45, 46a-46o; 47-74, 75a-75h) is operatable via context sensitive menus (46; 75, 76) shown in said hierarchical view after selecting the icon associated with said device and/or service.
5. (Amended) Method according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, **characterized in that** after operation at least one control signal and/or at least one data stream is sent from one device (101; 106; 108) to at least one other device (115; 102; 105).
6. (Amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** said hierarchical view of icons is organized according to predetermined user-selectable rules.
8. (Amended) Method according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, **characterized in that** said hierarchical view of icons is organized depending on the kind of services (47-74, 75a-75h) being available in correspondence with said devices (23-35; 76a-76j; 101-127).
9. (Amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** the AV/C protocol is used for controlling the devices (23-35; 76d-76j; 102-110, 114, 116-119, 121-126) and/or services (24a-24c, 42, 43, 43a-43g, 44, 45).
10. (Amended) MMI for controlling network devices, **characterized in that** it is adapted to perform the method as defined in ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.